CLAIMS

1. Method for determining the used bandwidth (CCR) on a connection (18) on which countable information-carrying units , e.g. cells, are transported, characterized in that the duration (ET) of an arrival period, during which a predetermined number (M) of said units arrives at a certain point of said connection (18), is measured and stored and that said bandwidth (CCR) at an arbitrary point of time (GT) is set to said predetermined number (M) per said stored duration (ET), if the point of time (TS) when said duration (ET) was stored, is not longer ago than a predetermined threshold time interval (THR) at said arbitrary point of time (GT).

2. Method according to claim 1, characterized in that the bandwidth (CCR) at the arbitrary point of time (GT) is set to zero, if the point of time (TS) when the stored duration (ET) was stored is at said arbitrary point of time (GT) older than the predetermined threshold time interval (THR).

3. Method according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the point of time (TS) when the number of the arriving units reached said predetermined number (M) is stored.

4. Method according to one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the point of time (TS) when the number of the arriving units reached said predetermined number (M) is used together with the arbitrary point of time (GT) and the predetermined threshold time interval (THR) to determine whether the stored duration (ET) is at said arbitrary point of time (GT) older or not older than said predetermined threshold time interval (THR).

5. Method according to one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the value of the predetermined threshold time interval (THR) is stored.

6. Method according to one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that after storing the duration (ET) of the arrival period, the duration (ET) of the next arrival period, is measured and stored and that the bandwidth (CCR) at the arbitrary point of time (GT) is set to the predetermined number (M) of the units per the last-stored duration (ET), if the point of time (TS) when the last-stored duration (ET) was stored is at said arbitrary point of time (GT) not older than the predetermined threshold time interval (THR).

7. Method according to claim 6, characterized in that when the duration (ET) of the next arrival period is stored, the duration (ET) of the previous arrival period is erased or overwritten.

8. Method according to claim 6 or 7, characterized in that the point of time (TS) when the number of the arriving units reached the predetermined number (M), is used together with the point of time (TS) when the number of said arriving units reached said predetermined number (M) the last time, to determine the duration (ET) of the arrival period.

9. Method according one of claims 6 to 8, characterized in that when the point of time (TS) when the number of the arriving units reached the predetermined number (M), is stored, the previous point of time (TS) when the number of said arriving units reached said predetermined number (M), is erased or overwritten.

10. Method according to one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the predetermined threshold time interval (THR), the last-stored duration (ET) and the point of time (TS) when the number of the arriving units reached the predetermined number (M) the last time is stored for the connection (18) in a storing means (13).

11. Method according to claim 1 characterized in that it is used for a plurality of connections (18).

12. Bandwidth determination means comprising measuring means (10, 14) for measuring the duration (ET) of an arrival period, during which a predetermined number (M) of information-carrying units arrives at a certain point of a connection (18), and storing means (13) for storing said duration (ET) and definition means (15) for setting said bandwidth (CCR) at an arbitrary point of time (GT) to said predetermined number (M) of said units per said stored duration (ET), if the point of time (TS) when said stored duration (ET) was stored, is not older than a predetermined threshold time interval (THR) at said arbitrary point of time (GT).

13. Bandwidth determination means according to claim 12, further comprising decision means (16) for determining whether the stored duration (ET) is at the arbitrary point of time (GT) older or not older than the predetermined threshold time interval (THR) by using the point of time (TS) when the number of the arriving units reached the predetermined number (M) together with the arbitrary point of time (GT) and said predetermined threshold time interval (THR).

14. Bandwidth determination means according to claim 12 or 13, characterized in that the measuring means (10, 14) is designed to measure, after storing the duration (ET) of the arrival period, the duration (ET) of the next arrival period, and that the storing means (13) is designed to store said duration (ET) of said next arrival period and that the definition means (15) is designed such that the bandwidth (CCR) at the arbitrary point of time (GT) is set to the predetermined number (M) of the units per the last-stored duration (ET), if the point of time (TS) when the last-stored duration (ET) was stored is at said arbitrary point of time (GT) not older than the predetermined threshold time interval (THR).

15. Bandwidth determination means according to one of claims 12 to 14, characterized in that the storing means (13) is designed such that when the duration (ET) of the next arrival period is stored, the duration (ET) of the previous arrival period is erased or overwritten.

16. Bandwidth determination means according to one of claims 12 to 15, characterized in that the measuring means (10, 14) is designed to use the point of time (TS) when the number of the arriving units reached the predetermined number (M), together with the point of time (TS) when the number of said arriving units reached said predetermined number (M) the last time, to determine the duration (ET) of the arrival period.

17. Bandwidth determination means according to one of claims 12 to 16, characterized in that the storing means (13) is designed such that when the point of time (TS) when the number of the arriving units reached the predetermined number (M), is stored, the previous point of time (TS) when the number of said arriving units reached said predetermined number (M), is erased or overwritten.

18. Bandwidth determination means according to ~~one of~~ claims 12 ~~to 17~~, characterized in that the storing means (13) is designed such that the predetermined threshold time interval (THR), the last-stored duration (ET) and the point of time (TS) when the number of the arriving units reached the predetermined number (M) the last time is stored for the connection (18).

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